

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

755.00/4-1357

FROM : AmEmbassy, Brussels

1401

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 23, 1957

DATE

REF : Embassy Despatch No. 599, December 28, 1954

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SUBJECT: Léon Degrelle Again in News.

The Belgian press reported April 13 that the notorious Belgian World War II collaborator and Rexist leader, Léon Degrelle, was in Malmo, Sweden, directing the Fascist International under the name of Martinez. The report was attributed to M. Georges Delbos, the General Secretary of the League Against Fascism, Racism, and Antisemitism, who reportedly made a statement to this effect during a conference in Luxembourg City. M. Delbos was reported later to have stated that he had only said the Fascist International with its seat in Malmo was directed by Martinez, who is actually Degrelle. He added that Degrelle, who he said has become a naturalized Spaniard, directed the organization from Madrid.

Shortly after the press reports appeared, the Malmo police were reported to have issued a statement denying Degrelle was there and that the Swedish Commission for Foreigners had declared he was not on their official register. (Dr.) Per Engdahl, described as a Swedish right-wing nationalist, is said to have stated that if Degrelle were in Sweden he would surely have been informed. Dr. Engdahl reportedly added that Degrelle was still in Spain.

This incident indicates the extent of Belgian sensitivity over Degrelle, who was sentenced to death in absentia in a postwar collaboration trial. His name frequently crops up when Belgo-Spanish relations are under discussion and the continuing reports that he is in Spain is a point of irritation to the Belgians, particularly the Socialists.

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001/2005

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

cc. AmEmbassies, Madrid and
Stockholm

Sheldon B. Vance
Sheldon B. Vance
First Secretary of Embassy

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